

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 EUR-12 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 OMB-01

CIEP-01 /076 W

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R 111030Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1673

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4950

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SN

SUBJ: SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT EXPELLS FOREIGN STUDENT ACTIVISTS

REFS: (A) SINGAPORE 4461; (B) SINGAPORE 4546

1. THE GOS TODAY ORDERED THE EXPULSION FROM SINGAPORE OF SIX FOREIGN STUDENTS. THE STUDENTS, FIVE MALAYSIAN CHINESE AND ONE HONG KONG CHINESE, ARE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE STUDENTS UNION (USSU) ACTIVISTS. A GOS PRESS RELEASE STATED THAT CANCELLATION OF THE STUDENTS' IMMIGRATION PASSES AND EXPULSION FROM SINGAPORE WAS ORDERED FOLLOWING "PERSISTENT AND DELIBERATE BREACHES OF THE WRITTEN UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY ALL FOREIGN STUDENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT GET INVOLVED IN POLITICAL OR OTHER ISSUES OF SINGAPORE".

2. FIVE OF THE STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED IN A PRE-DAWN RAID ON USSU'S CAMPUS HEADQUARTERS. THE ARRESTED STUDENTS ARE USSU GENERAL SECRETARY JULIET CHIN, USSU VP BONG HONG MIN, CHOO FOO YONG, CHIA YONG TAI AND CHUA CHONG LAI (ALL MALAYSIANS). THE HONG KONG BRITISH

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SUBJECT ORDERED EXPELLED IS TSUI HON KWONG. THE STUDENTS ARE

PROHIBITED FROM RE-ENTERING SINGAPORE WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION.

3. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, USSU PRESIDENT TAN WAH PIOW APPEARED IN COURT THIS MORNING TO FACE CHARGES OF RIOTING IN CONNECTION WITH AN OCTOBER 30 INCIDENT AT A LABOR UNION HEADQUARTERS (SEE R O :6). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MORE THAN 600 STUDENTS AND WORKERS TURNED UP AT THE COURTHOUSE TODAY IN A SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR TAN AND HIS CO-DEFENDANTS, TWO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. TAN, A SINGAPOREAN, IS NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE SINGAPORE. HIS PASSPORT WAS CONFISCATED BY SINGAPORE IMMIGRATION UPON HIS RETURN FROM A RECENT TRIP TO MALAYSIA.

4. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM ACTION COMES AS NO SURPRISE. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOS WILL NOT TOLERATE USSU'S INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN POTENTIALLY VOLATILE ISSUES SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT AND RETRENCHMENT. USSU'S INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH MATTERS WAS MANIFESTED BY ITS SPONSORSHIP OF A "RETRENCHMENT RESEARCH CENTER"

AND ATTEMPTED PROSELYTIZATION OF RETRENCHED WORKERS (SEE REFTEL B). THE GOS IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR DEMONSTRATIONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH MALAYSIAN STUDENT ACTIVISTS. GRANT

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